

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7148

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PEKING 183

EXDIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, CH, US

SUBJECT: USLO DINNER FOR FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA

REF: STATE 15031

1. BEGIN INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR AND MRS. GATES HOSTED AN INFORMAL DINNER AT USLO ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 25 FOR FOREIGN MINISTER AND MADAME HUANG HUA. THE OTHER CHINESE GUESTS: VICE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG HAI-JUNG; AMERICAN AND OCEANIAN DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR LIN PING AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR TANG WEN-SHENG (NANCY TANG); OFFICE OF US AFFAIRS DIRECTOR TING YUAN-HUNG AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR LIEN CHENG-PAO; AND INTERPRETER SHIH YEN-HUA. MOST CONVERSATION WAS CORDIAL, LIVELY, BUT NONSUBSTANTIVE. THE SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGES GENERALLY FOLLOWED FAMILIAR LINES, WITH THE CHINESE STRESSING:

--THEIR READINESS TO COUNTER THE SOVIET THREAT AND THEIR CONTINUING WORRIES ABOUT AMERICAN RESOLVE TO DO LIKEWISE;

--THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE STATE OF THE AMERICAN AND WESTERN
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EUROPEAN ECONOMIES; AND

--THEIR INTEREST IN THE PERSONNEL AND POLICIES OF THE NEW
ADMINISTRATION.

NANCY TANG VOLUNTEERED HER OFT-EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS CONCERNING
ACCURACY OF FOREIGN PRESS REPORTING ON CHINA, BUT ADDED A NEW

TWIST, SUGGESTING THAT HONG KONG-BASED JOURNALISTS REFLECTED THE ANALYTICAL OPINION OF AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL CHINA-WATCHERS. SHE ALSO TOOK EXCEPTION TO "RECENT" US STATEMENTS ON TAIWAN, WONDERING ALOUD IF THESE COULD IN ANY WAY REFLECT GENUINE USG UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRC POSITION. AMBASSADOR GATES DELIVERED INFORMAL TOAST NOTING INTENTION OF NEW ADMINISTRATION TO BE GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE (REFTEL). IN ONLY DISCUSSION OF THE PRC INTERNAL SCENE WANG HAI-JUNG REFERRED POINTEDLY TO "COMRADE" TENG HSIAO-PING. END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

2. THE SOVIET THEREAT. DURING DINNER-TABLE CONVERSATION FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG AND OTHER CHINESE OFFICIALS REFERRED OFTEN TO THE SOVIET THREAT AND TO CHINESE READINESS TO COUNTER IT. ELABORATING ON THIS THEME IN A LONG POST-DINNER CONVERSATION WITH DC DEAN, HUANG SEVERAL TIMES NOTED CHINESE CONCERN ABOUT APPARENT LACK OF US RESOLVE XFD THE "CAPITULATIONIST" TENDENCY EXISTING IN THE UNITED STATES. HUANG EMPHASIZED THAT CHINA IS PREPARED TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST ATTACK BY THE SOVIET UNION "OR EVEN BY BOTH SUPER-POWERS AT THE SAME TIME." TO DC DEAN'S REPLY THAT A US ATTACK ON CHINA IS INCONCEIVABLE AND A SOVIET INVASION WOULD BE AN IRRATIONAL ACT, HUANG MERELY OBSERVED "WE ARE PREPARED IN ANY CASE."

3. WESTERN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS: MANY OF THE CHINESE GUESTS INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER MADE POINTED CONFIDENTIAL

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INQUIRIES ABOUT CURRENT WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION. THEIR DETAILED QUESTIONS ABOUT INFLATION, FLOATING EXCHANGE RATES, AND DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY COUNTRIES LIKE U.K., ITALY AND OTHERS MAY STEM FROM THEIR OWN ECONOMIC CONCERNS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AS WELL AS THEIR VIEW THAT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS MADE OTHER NATIONS EVEN MORE VULNERABLE TO SOVIET THREAT. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE CURRENT VISIT BY VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE TO WESTERN EUROPE AND JAPAN.

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4. THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. THE CHINESE SAID THAT THEY ARE PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE POLICY STATEMENTS OF THE NEW CARTER ADMINISTRATION BUT INDICATED THEIR AWARENESS THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO MAKE FIRM JUDGMENTS ON THE THRUST OF AMERICAN POLICY. SEVERAL CHINESE, NOTABLY LIN PING, SOUGHT INFORMATION ON THE IDENTITY, BACKGROUND, AND VIEWPOINT OF NEW HIGH-LEVEL APPOINTEES TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND NSC. AMBASSADOR GATES DELIVERED A BRIEF AND INFORMAL TOAST FOLLOWING DINNER IN WHICH HE NOTED THE INTENTION OF SECRETARY VANCE AND THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TO BE GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE (REFTEL). FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG'S REPLY WAS NONSUBSTANTIVE.

5. NANCY TANG ON JOURNALISTS, CHINA-WATCHERS, AND THE US POSTURE ON TAIWAN. NANCY TANG TOOK STRONG EXCEPTION TO "RECENT" USG STATEMENTS ON TAIWAN (SHE DODGED A REQUEST TO CITE SPECIFICS BUT AGREED THAT THE REMARKS IN QUESTION HAD OCCURRED PRIOR TO INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT CARTER), COMMENTING THAT SUCH STATEMENTS INDICATED AN APPARENT USG FAILURE TO "UNDERSTAND" CHINESE STATEMENTS ON THE ISSUE. SHE INQUIRED WHETHER USLO STAFF MEMBERS HAD BEEN PRIVY TO THE MEMORANDA OF CONVERSATION PREPARED FOLLOWING
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MEETINGS OF PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY KISSINGER WITH CHAIRMAN MAO AND PREMIER CHOU. ADVISED THAT THE USG HAD STRICTLY RESPECTED THE CHINESE DESIRE FOR CONFIDENTIALITY, SHE OBSERVED THAT A READING OR REREADING OF THE MEMORANDA WOULD DEMONSTRATE WHY THE CHINESE WERE CONCERNED BY THE USG STATEMENTS ON TAIWAN. SHE ALSO LAUNCHED INTO HER OFT-EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS CONCERNING FOREIGN PRESS REPORTING ON CHINA, BUT ADDED A NEW TWIST, SUGGESTING THAT HONG KONG-BASED

JOURNALISTS REFLECTED THE ANALYTICAL OPINION OF AMERICAN
CONGEN CHINA-WATCHERS.

6. THE INTERNAL SCENE. THE CHINESE DID NOT VOLUNTEER INFORMATION
CONCERNING THE PRC DOMESTIC SCENE. BUT WANG HAI-JUNG ON ONE OCCASION
REFERRED TO "COMRADE" TENG HSIAO-PING, VERBALLY UNDERSCORING
THE WORD "COMRADE."

7. ATMOSPHERICS. FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER GUESTS APPEARED TO
ENJOY THEMSELVES AND ATMOSPHERE WAS GENERALLY CORDIAL AND RELAXED.
GATES

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